

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - IML-4 BOMBS, TORPEDOES,
AND MISSILES

REF: STATE 231156; COCOM DOC. REV (74) 9

1. BELGIAN PROPOSAL DREW US OBJECTION PER REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS. DESPITE PRECAUTION OF HAVING BILATERALLY DISCUSSED US PROBLEM WITH BELGIAN DEL AND AMBASSADOR CHAVAL, BELGIANS HAD EVIDENTLY DECIDED THAT THEIR OWN PROBLEMS REQUIRED THAT THEY ASK THE MEANING OF THE US DEL STATEMENT. DEL PARRIED BY NOTING THAT SUCH QUESTIONS WERE SUBJECT TO NATIONAL JUDGMENT OF "REASONABLE QUANTITY". UKDEL, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTION, STATED THAT THE MOU TO IML 7(A) ALREADY PERMITS SHIPMENT OF REASONABLE QUANTITIES OF TEAR GAS AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE US POSITION IS BASED ON OPPOSITION TO "DOUBLE COVERAGE" FOR EXCLUSIONS. USDEL REPLIED THAT HE WOULD FORWARD THAT QUESTION TO HIS AUTHORITIES.

2. THE FRENCH DEL THEN NOTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT SMOKE SIGNAL GRENADES COULD BE USED BY THE MILITARY BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT SPECIALLY DESIGNED. THEREFORE THEY WERE NOT EVEN COVERED UNDER THE MILITARY LIST. A FRENCH MILITARY OFFICER STATED THAT
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TEAR GAS CANNOT BE "STRATEGIC" BECAUSE IT IS NOT A

MILITARY ITEM, BUT RATHER A POLICE ITEM.

3. DUTCH COLLEAGUE NIEWLAND AT THAT POINT SUGGESTED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT IN HIS MIND TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE POLICE IN EASTERN EUROPE. THEREFORE HE ADDED HIS RESERVATION TO THE US OBJECTION.

5. THE UK DEL REACTED TO NIEUWLAND BY SAYING THAT THERE MIGHT BE POLITICAL OBJECTIONS TO SUCH EXPORTS BUT THERE COULD BE NO STRATEGIC OBJECTIONS (WHICH COCOM CRITERIA REQUIRE). IN RAPID ORDER, THE BELGIAN DEL ASKED WHETHER THE US REMARKS REFERRED TO SMOKE GRENADES; THE FRENCH DEL CALLED FOR CONSENSUS THAT THE BELGIAN PROPOSAL HAD BEEN AN UNNECESSARY ONE AS FAR AS TEAR GAS IS CONCERNED.

6. THE BELGIAN DEL THEN PROPOSED TO REVISE HIS PROPOSAL BY STRIKING THE WORDS "TEAR GAS OR". THE US DEL INTERPRETED HIS INSTRUCTIONS AS REQUIRING OBJECTION AS WELL TO REVISED BELGIAN PROPOSAL, SO STATED, AND PROPOSAL WAS NOT ADOPTED.

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